



Marc Wolstenholme
5 Shetland Close
Coventry, England CV5 7LS
Telephone: 044 7827964404

Email: marc@mvwolf-fiction.co.uk

Plaintiff in Pro Per

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
STANLEY MOSK COURTHOUSE

MARC WOLSTENHOLME,

Plaintiff,

vs.

RIOT GAMES, INC.,

Defendant

Case No.: 24STCV28643

2:25-cv-00053-FMO-BFM

Hon. Kevin C. Brazile, Dept. 20

(1) COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT (17
U.S.C. § 501)
(2) VICARIOUS COPYRIGHT
INFRINGEMENT (17 U.S.C. § 501)
(3) UNFAIR COMPETITION (17 U.S.C. §
501)
(4) INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF
EMOTIONAL DISTRESS (IIED):
CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE § 1708.
Action Filed Date: October 31, 2024

NARRATIVE COMPLAINT

Dated this 09.01.2025.

M. Wolstenholme.

[MARC WOLSTENHOLME]

(1) COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT (17 U.S.C. § 501) (2) VICARIOUS COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT (17 U.S.C. § 501) (3) UNFAIR COMPETITION (17 U.S.C. § 501) (4) INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS (IIED): CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE § 1708. ACTION FILED DATE: OCTOBER 31, 2024 - 1

1
2
3 **INTRODUCTION**
4

5
6 Plaintiff Marc Wolstenholme ("Plaintiff"), a UK resident and the owner of the
7 copyrighted material known as the M.W. Wolf catalogue of fiction, brings this action against
8 Defendant Riot Games, Inc. ("Defendant"), a California-based video game development
9 company.
10

11 Plaintiff owns the exclusive copyright to "Bloodborg: The Harvest" by M.W.
12 Wolf, created between 2018-2019.

13 Plaintiff alleges that Defendant infringed his copyright by using the manuscript of
14 "Bloodborg: The Harvest" submitted to Riot Forge, Curtis Brown Group, and others in 2020 to
15 create the animated series ARCANÉ. Plaintiff asserts that Defendant's animated show and
16 promotional materials derive narrative elements, themes, aesthetics, and character arcs from
17 Plaintiff's copyrighted work.
18

19 Plaintiff seeks damages for the harm suffered, statutory damages, and an
20 injunction to prevent further infringement.
21
22
23
24
25
26

27
28 (1) COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT (17 U.S.C. § 501) (2) VICARIOUS COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT (17 U.S.C. § 501) (3) UNFAIR COMPETITION (17 U.S.C. § 501) (4) INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS (IIED): CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE § 1708. ACTION FILED DATE: OCTOBER 31, 2024 - 2

1 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

2 5. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1338(a) as this matter arises
3 under the U.S. Copyright Act (17 U.S.C. § 501).

4 6. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1400(a) as Defendant
5 Riot Games, Inc. maintains its principal place of business in Los Angeles County, California.
6

7
8 **PARTIES**

9 7. Plaintiff Marc Wolstenholme is a UK resident and owner of the M.W. Wolf
10 catalogue of fiction.
11

12 8. Defendant Riot Games, Inc. is a video game development company
13 headquartered in Los Angeles, California.
14

15 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

16 9. Plaintiff created the work "Bloodborg: The Harvest" between 2018 and 2019
17 and holds the exclusive copyright to this literary work.
18

19 10. In early 2020, Plaintiff submitted the manuscript of "Bloodborg: The Harvest"
20 to Riot Forge, Curtis Brown Group, and others.
21

22 11. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant Riot Games unlawfully copied significant
23 portions of his manuscript to create the animated series ARCANÉ, which premiered on Netflix
24 in November 2021.

25 12. Plaintiff asserts that characters, plotlines, thematic elements, and narrative
26 structure in ARCANÉ mirror those found in "Bloodborg: The Harvest."
27

28 (1) COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT (17 U.S.C. § 501) (2) VICARIOUS COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT (17 U.S.C. § 501) (3) UNFAIR COMPETITION (17 U.S.C. § 501) (4) INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS (IIED): CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE § 1708.ACTION FILED DATE: OCTOBER 31, 2024 - 3

1 13. Plaintiff further alleges that the official music video "Blood Sweat & Tears"
2 by Riot Games, featuring Sheryl Lee Ralph, derives directly from elements of "Bloodborg: The
3 Harvest."

4 14. Defendant continues to profit from ARCANE and related products despite
5 being notified of the alleged infringement in November 2021.
6

7 15. Defendant's legal representatives responded with threats of extensive legal
8 fees, causing Plaintiff emotional distress and further exacerbating his existing complex PTSD.
9

10
11 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

12 (Copyright Infringement – 17 U.S.C. § 501)

13 16. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 15 by reference.

14 17. Defendant, without authorization, copied, distributed, and publicly displayed
15 Plaintiff's copyrighted material.
16

17 18. Defendant's unauthorized use of Plaintiff's work constitutes direct copyright
18 infringement.

19 19. Plaintiff has suffered damages as a direct result of Defendant's infringement
20 and is entitled to statutory damages and injunctive relief under 17 U.S.C. § 504.
21

22
23 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

24 (Vicarious Copyright Infringement – 17 U.S.C. § 501)

25 20. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 19 by reference.
26

27
28 (1) COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT (17 U.S.C. § 501) (2) VICARIOUS COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT (17 U.S.C. §
501) (3) UNFAIR COMPETITION (17 U.S.C. § 501) (4) INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS
(IIED): CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE § 1708.ACTION FILED DATE: OCTOBER 31, 2024 - 4

1 21. Defendant benefited financially from the unauthorized use of Plaintiff's
2 copyrighted material through partnerships with Netflix, Fortiche Production SAS, and others.

3 22. Defendant had the ability to control and supervise the infringing conduct but
4 failed to prevent it.

5 23. Plaintiff seeks statutory damages and injunctive relief to prevent further
6 vicarious infringement.
7

8
9 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

10 (Unfair Competition – Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200)

11 24. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 23 by reference.

12 25. Defendant engaged in unlawful and unfair business practices by
13 misappropriating Plaintiff's copyrighted material for commercial gain.
14

15 26. Defendant's conduct caused Plaintiff significant financial harm and
16 reputational damage.
17

18 27. Plaintiff seeks restitution, disgorgement of profits, and injunctive relief to
19 prevent further unfair competition.
20

21 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

22 (Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress – Cal. Civ. Code § 1708)

23 28. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 27 by reference.

24 29. Defendant's legal representatives threatened Plaintiff with excessive legal fees
25 and dismissal of his claims, knowing Plaintiff was a vulnerable adult with complex PTSD.
26

27 (1) COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT (17 U.S.C. § 501) (2) VICARIOUS COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT (17 U.S.C. §
28 501) (3) UNFAIR COMPETITION (17 U.S.C. § 501) (4) INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS
(IIED): CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE § 1708. ACTION FILED DATE: OCTOBER 31, 2024 - 5

1 30. Defendant's conduct was extreme, outrageous, and beyond the bounds of
2 decency, causing Plaintiff severe emotional distress.

3 31. Plaintiff seeks compensatory and punitive damages for the emotional harm
4 suffered.
5

6
7 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**
8

9 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendant as follows:
10

11
12 Statutory damages for copyright infringement pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504.

13 Injunctive relief to prevent further infringement.

14 Disgorgement of profits and restitution under Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200.

15 Compensatory and punitive damages for emotional distress.

16 Reimbursement of legal fees and costs.

17 Any other relief deemed just and proper by the Court.

18 Dated: January 9, 2025
19

20
21 Respectfully submitted,

22 Marc Wolstenholme *M. Wolstenholme.*
23

24 Plaintiff pro se
25
26
27

28 (1) COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT (17 U.S.C. § 501) (2) VICARIOUS COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT (17 U.S.C. § 501) (3) UNFAIR COMPETITION (17 U.S.C. § 501) (4) INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS (IIED): CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE § 1708. ACTION FILED DATE: OCTOBER 31, 2024 - 6